

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172843  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:GMOOSE:ML  
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE  
S/S -F.WISNER

-----067745 082043Z /62

O 082035Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172843

NODIS  
FOR AMBASSADOR LOW FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH NKOMO

REFS: A) LUSAKA 2410; B) LUSAKA 2426

1. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT APPEARS THAT NKOMO WANTS MORE TIME TO STRENGTHEN HIS OWN POSITION AND TO PREPARE FOR A SECRET PRINCIPALS MEETING. HE APPARENTLY REGARDS SUCH A MEETING AS HIS MAJOR--AND PERHAPS ONE REMAINING--OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH HIS LEADERSHIP AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THAT OPPORTUNITY LOST IN A PREMATURE AND UNPRODUCTIVE SESSION. IN ASKING US TO STAND FAST FOR A WEEK OR TWO, WE SUSPECT HE MAY HAVE IN MIND USING THE INTERVENING PERIOD TO PURSUE THE VARIOUS CONTACTS WITH THE OTHER PLAYERS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING BOTH  
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SITHOLE AND SMITH. YOUR SUGGESTION (REF. B) THAT HE MAY ALSO HAVE IN MIND A NEW UNITY BID WITH ZANU THAT WOULD RELEGATE MUGABE TO A CLEARLY SUBORDINATE ROLE AND SIMULTANEOUSLY INCREASE HIS BARGAINING POSITION WITH SMITH, ALTHOUGH STILL SPECULATIVE, STRIKES US AS BEING NOT AT ALL IMPLAUSIBLE.

2. IN ANY EVENT, WE SEE LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO TO FORCE THE PACE OF EVENTS AT THIS STAGE AND SOME ADVANTAGE TO ALLOWING NKOMO THE ADDITIONAL TIME HE IS INSISTING UPON. WE THEREFORE CONCUR IN THE APPROACHES YOU HAVE OUTLINED IN PARA. 4 OF REF. A. UNLESS YOU OR YOUR COUNTERPARTS IN MAPUTO AND DAR SEE MAJOR OBJECTIONS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN BRIEFING BOTH MACHEL AND NYERERE WE GIVE THEM A BIT MORE FEEL FOR NKOMO'S CURRENT THINKING. WITHOUT ELABORATING ON ALL OF NKOMO'S APPARENT MOTIVES, WE COULD TELL MACHEL AND NYERERE THAT NKOMO APPARENTLY FEELS THE NEED FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR A PRINCIPALS MEETING AND THAT HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION WITH MUGABE IN KHARTOUM.

3. ASSUME YOU WILL PASS YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT DIRECTLY TO JIM SPAIN AND BILL DEPREE. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE172843  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GMOOSE:ML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 LUSAKA 2410, 78 LUSAKA 2426  
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**Subject:** RHODESIA: MEETING WITH NKOMO  
**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, US, UK, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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